

**From:** [Walt Sternke](#)  
**To:** [Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Need some RRT-type help  
**Date:** 06/06/2011 07:39 AM

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1. Greg, I hate to bother you, but I would be interested in more of the details that led up to this incident involving the farmers.
  2. Would you have a SITREP that you could send my way?
  3. Being in Atlanta, I routinely get the ERNS Reports from EPA R4. However, our Forest Service Southern Region also covers parts of EPA R3 and R6, as we cover the 13 SE states from VA to TX.
- Thanks (Walt)

**Fife.Greg@epamail.epa.gov**

06/01/2011 06:09 PM

To: Walt Sternke <[wsternke@fs.fed.us](mailto:wsternke@fs.fed.us)>  
cc: Blake.Velde@dm.usda.gov, John Doiron <[jdoiron@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdoiron@fs.fed.us)>, Robert Ardelean <[rardelean@fs.fed.us](mailto:rardelean@fs.fed.us)>, Satgur Klar <[sklar@fs.fed.us](mailto:sklar@fs.fed.us)>  
Subject: Re: Need some RRT-type help

Thanks. I'll look forward to some suggestions.

There currently are several skimmers and other methods deployed. Using every access point along the bayou. And resources have been intensified at the last containment to counter the movement of the oil caused by the pumping.

**From:** Walt Sternke <[wsternke@fs.fed.us](mailto:wsternke@fs.fed.us)>  
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**Cc:** Satgur Klar <[sklar@fs.fed.us](mailto:sklar@fs.fed.us)>, Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Blake.Velde@dm.usda.gov  
**Date:** 06/01/2011 03:12 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Need some RRT-type help

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1. It appears that a situation is developing where this oil spill could be made worse by the start of farmers pumping water to their rice fields.
2. Do either of you have any suggestions that might be useful?
3. I would think that EPA needs to get some skimmers going, big time, to remove as much released oil as possible before farmer pumping begins.



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4. Please send any ideas you might have, soonest. Thanks (Walt)

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USDA Forest Service, R8  
404-347-3369, Fax: -2399/6217  
We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, We  
borrow it from our children - Native American Proverb  
**Fife.Greg@epamail.epa.gov**

06/01/2011 11:44 AM

To smcdonald@fs.fed.us, wsternke@fs.fed.us  
cc  
Subject Need some RRT-type help

I'm on an oil spill response in Crowley, LA. The oil has entered Bayou Blanc. Crowley is the self proclaimed rice capitol of the world. It time for the farmers to start pumping water onto their rice fields. The problem is that the farmers are going to be pulling the oil past the containment as they pump water. While that is going to make it more difficult to clean it up, it is also likely that they could be pulling oil into their pumps (some 36 inch double blades) and then onto their fields. Even pumps down stream will cause problems.

We've tried making contacts with the farmers using the local resources. Some farmers insist that they can get clean water by pumping underneath. That's not completely true in some areas but it will likely cause trouble upstream.

The priority of the cleanup is getting the free oil up so that the pumping can begin. Its a matter of days that the free oil is up.

I'm looking for any assistance from you.